



THE  
CEYLON GOVERNMENT  
GAZETTE

EXTRAORDINARY

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PART II.—LEGAL.

*(Separate paging is given to each Part in order that it may be filed separately.)*

**DRAFT ORDINANCES.**

**MINUTE.**

The following Draft of a proposed Ordinance is published for general information:—

L. D.—O 39/39

**An Ordinance to provide for the alteration of the designations of Chief and Minor Headmen and of the administrative areas in their charge.**

BE it enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, with the advice and consent of the State Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Headmen (Change of Designation) Ordinance, No.        of 1940. Short title.
2. (1) Any power or function which, by any written law, is conferred upon or assigned to any officer mentioned in the First Schedule to this Ordinance may be exercised or discharged by a Divisional Revenue Officer. Divisional Revenue Officers.  
(2) Any duty which, by any written law, is required to be performed by any officer mentioned in the First Schedule to this Ordinance is hereby required to be performed by a Divisional Revenue Officer.  
(3) In any written law in force immediately prior to the date of the commencement of this Ordinance, "headman", unless the context otherwise requires, includes a Divisional Revenue Officer.
3. (1) Any power or function which, by any written law, is conferred upon or assigned to any officer mentioned in the Second Schedule to this Ordinance may be exercised or discharged by a Village Headman. Village Headmen.  
(2) Any duty which, by any written law, is required to be performed by any officer mentioned in the Second Schedule to this Ordinance is hereby required to be performed by a Village Headman.

Power to  
amend  
Schedules.

Divisional  
Revenue  
Officers'  
Divisions  
and Village  
Headmen's  
Divisions.

Construction  
of future  
written law.

Savings for  
exercise and  
performance  
of powers and  
duties by  
officers  
mentioned in  
Schedules.

Provisions of  
Ordinance not  
to affect area  
within which  
powers, &c.,  
may be  
exercised by  
officers of  
Government.

4. The Schedules to this Ordinance may, from time to time, be added to or otherwise amended by resolution passed by the State Council and ratified by the Governor. No such resolution shall have effect until notification of the ratification of that resolution is published in the *Gazette*.

5. On and after such date as the Governor may appoint by Proclamation published in the *Gazette*—

- (a) every Chief Headman's Division shall be called and known as a "Divisional Revenue Officer's Division";
- (b) every Police Headman's Division shall be called and known as a "Village Headman's Division"; and
- (c) the expressions "Divisional Revenue Officer's Division" and "Village Headman's Division" shall be substituted for the expressions "Chief Headman's Division" and "Police Headman's Division", respectively, in any written law in force on that date.

6. In any written law—

- (a) "Divisional Revenue Officer" includes any officer mentioned in the First Schedule to this Ordinance; and
- (b) "Village Headman" includes any officer mentioned in the Second Schedule to this Ordinance.

7. Nothing in the preceding provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed—

- (a) to affect or prejudice the right of any officer mentioned in the First Schedule or the Second Schedule to this Ordinance to exercise or discharge any power or function conferred upon or assigned to him by any written law; or
- (b) to relieve any such officer from the duty to perform any act or to do any thing required by any written law to be performed or done by him.

8. Nothing in the preceding provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed—

- (a) to enable any officer of Government to exercise any power or discharge any function; or
- (b) to require any officer of Government to perform any duty,

except within the administrative limits of the division, area or place for which such officer is appointed.

#### FIRST SCHEDULE.

(Section 2).

Chief Headman:  
Mudaliyar.  
Ratamahatmaya.  
Maniagar.  
District Adigar.  
Vanniah.

#### SECOND SCHEDULE.

(Section 3).

Police Headman.  
Police Vidane.  
Police Vidhan.  
Duraya.  
Police Duraya.  
Maha Duraya.  
Constable Arachchi.  
Town Arachchi.  
Town Headman.  
Vidane Duraya.  
Gan Arachchi.  
Vidane.

#### Objects and Reasons.

The object of this Bill is to give effect to the decision of the State Council that the designation "Divisional Revenue Officer" should be used in place of the titles "Mudaliyar", "Ratamahatmaya", "Vanniah", and "Maniagar" and that a uniform nomenclature should be adopted in the case of Minor Headmen.

2. It has been decided by the Executive Committee of Home Affairs that the Chief Headmen who are now in office should be permitted to retain the designations of their respective offices and that all types of Minor Headmen, such as Police Headmen, Police Vidanes, Gan Arachchies, &c., should hereafter be known as "Village Headmen".

3. The Bill makes provision for the change of designation of the officers concerned and of the administrative areas in their charge and for the interpretation of existing law so that references to officers under their old designations should include references to Divisional Revenue Officers and Village Headmen appointed under the new Headmen System.

Provision will also be made to secure that those headmen who retain their present designations will be able to exercise the powers, and will be required to perform the duties, conferred or imposed upon them by any written law.

D. B. JAYATILAKA,  
Minister of Home Affairs.